NSC BRIEFING   29 April 1954

THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE

I. Background: Conference five South Asian

prime ministers (Ceylon, India, Pakistan,

Burma, Indonesia) opened Colombo 28 April.

No fixed agenda.

II. Opening Session Stresses Indochina:

A. Press reports conference "accepted"

only part Nehru's Indochina peace plan.

1. Immediate cease-fire.

2. Guarantee full independence.

B. Rejected following:

1. Direct negotiations France,

Associated States, Viet Minh.

2. Nonintervention agreement US, UK,

Communist China, USSR.

C. Agreed no action adverse to progress

Geneva.

D. New Indian draft to be presented

29 April.

III. Reported flare-up Nehru versus Mohammed

Ali (Pakistan):

A. Mohammed Ali suggested peace Kahmir

before world problems.

B. Nehru irritated. Reported agreed

discuss Kashmir if also consider US aid

to Pakistan.

C. Mohammed Ali likely needle Nehru

further Kashmir. Talks might break

down into mutual accusation session

Pakistan vs. India, due Nehru's

sensitivity this subject.

IV. Indonesia: Reported suggest recognition
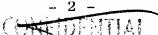
Communist China which Nehru opposed. Will

also call for more inclusive conference

Asian-African states.

V. Probable Results:

A. No agreement likely detailed plans

action re Indochina.

B. Revival Nehru-Ali feud could break

down conference.

    C. But more probable broadly worded

       resolution Indochina, hitting

       "colonialism," urging quick peace.

       Such result would save appearances,

       important all concerned.

    D. Overall result could be major diplomatic

       defeat Nehru, if Pakistan and Ceylon

       hold firm anti-Communist line.